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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,917	04/08/2003	Joseph P. McGurk	END-875	4436
26875	7590	08/09/2006	EXAMINER	
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, LLP 2700 CAREW TOWER 441 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202				BOUCHELLE, LAURA A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3763		

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/713,917	Applicant(s) MCGURK, JOSEPH P.
	Examiner Laura A. Bouchelle	Art Unit 3763

Office Action Summary

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/31/06.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woehr et al (US 6287278) in view of Barr et al (US 3520292).
3. Woehr discloses a safety catheter comprising a needle assembly comprising a needle of constant diameter attached to a needle hub; a catheter assembly comprising a catheter attached to a catheter hub, wherein the needle is coaxially received in the catheter; and a needle tip protector disposed within the catheter hub, slidably disposed onto the needle, whereby when the needle protector is removed from the catheter the protector remains attached to the needle (See Abstract).
4. Claims 1, 6 and, 10 differ from Woehr in calling for the needle to have a bent area. Barr teaches a needle holder comprising a needle 16 having a bent area 14 and a bevel, wherein no portion of the bevel is contained in the bent area, and further that the bent area causes the needle to off set from, but generally parallel to the axis of the needle. See Fig. 4. This configuration prevents the needle from moving longitudinally within the protector 12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of invention to modify the needle of Woehr to have a bent area as taught by Barr to prevent the needle from moving longitudinally within the protector.

5. Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woehr in view of Barr as applied to claims 1, 6 and 10 above, and further in view of Luther (US 6585704).

6. Claims 4, 8, and 12 differ from Woehr in view of Barr in calling for the needle to include a sleeve. Claims 5, 9, and 13 call for the sleeve to be proximal the bent area of the needle. Luther teaches a needle 32 having a sleeve 12 proximal the bend 20 that retains the needle within the protector (Page 2, paragraph 0028). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the needle of Woehr to include a sleeve proximal the bend as taught by Luther to retain the needle within the protector.

7. Claims 2, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woehr et al in view of Barr as applied to claims 1, 6, and 10 above, and further in view of Bell (US 6261259). Claims 2, 7, and 11 differ from the above teachings in calling for the bent area of the needle to be angled 45 – 90 degrees away from the original direction. Bell teaches a needle having a bend of about 0 – 180 degrees to accommodate a variety of uses (Col. 3, lines 44-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the bent

needle of Woehr in view of Luther to have an angle of 45 to 90 degrees as taught by Bell to accommodate a variety of uses.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 7/31/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 3, 6, 10 under Bialecki have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Woehr in view of Barr.

Conclusion

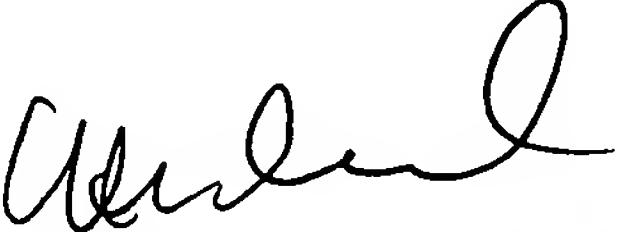
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura A. Bouchelle whose telephone number is 571-272-2125. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 517-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Laura A Bouchelle
Examiner
Art Unit 3763

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